Are Human Rights Important?
by Isabella

Human rights are the rights we have just by being human. If we obey them it will help us all to live in peace together. On December 10, 1948 Eleanor Roosevelt and the 56 members of the United Nations (the largest group in the world supporting human rights) adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) which states the 30 human rights. Human rights are definitely important. They encourage all people on earth to be equal, safe and free.

Human rights are important because without them, people are not equal. The Stolen Generation is one example of how without human rights people are treated unfairly. The Australian Government stole the Indigenous people's children because they thought that having a white upbringing would be better for the Aboriginal children. This meant that the Aboriginal culture was not respected and the Australian Government was trying to get rid of it. If they had obeyed the UDHR, then they would have tolerated and respected that the aboriginal culture was just as equally important, this devastating event would never have happened. This event proves that human rights are important.

Apartheid was a legal segregation in South Africa between 1948 and 1994, where white people were considered ‘better’ than the blacks. The Apartheid, meaning apartness, is another example of why human rights are so important. There were separate toilets, separate eating places, separate schools and separate homes. The whites always had access to quality services while the blacks had access to inferior ones. In some instances the blacks were even shot and killed for asking for equal rights. If the South African Government had respected human rights, this heartbreaking event wouldn't have been an occurrence. Apartheid is another example of why human rights are so important.

The Holocaust was a horrific event which occurred in World War II. The Nazis led by Adolf Hitler did not like the Jews and thought that it would be best to exterminate them. Human rights are extremely important because they mean that we can all live safely. When people disregard human rights, it means that people are not safe. The holocaust is an example of where human rights were disobeyed and the result was that Jewish people were not safe to live under Nazi rule. The Nazis isolated the Jews, made it impossible for them to get a job, used them as slaves, tortured them and eventually gassed them. The result was that around 6 million Jews were killed. If the UDHR was made before this terrible event, it may have saved all these lives.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, states many articles about all people on earth living safely. Number three of the Human rights is: ‘Right to life liberty and the security of person.’ Number seven declares the ‘Right to equal protection by the law.’ These Human Rights are so important, because if we obeyed these laws, we would be able to live safely and securely.

Nelson Mandela was a South African man who fought for the human rights of all South Africans. He believed in equality and freedom. Most importantly, human rights are highly necessary because they provide all humans with freedom. Nelson Mandela was standing up for his people when they were being treated very unfairly. He was given a life time imprisonment for speaking his mind and for standing up for the rights of his people. Article 1
in the UDHR states that we are ‘All born free and equal’. Nelson Mandela’s fight to win the freedom of all South Africans demonstrates the importance of human rights.

In 1215, King John was the King of England. He abused his power and On 15 June, 1215, King John signed an English charter named the Magna Carta. This prevented him from treating all people of the country unfairly. The Magna Carta was a document almost like the UDHR. When King John signed it, it meant that if he disobeyed the law then he would have to be replaced. This gave people more freedom in doing what they wanted without being punished every time. The Magna Carta is an early example of human rights, and the importance that they hold in our society.

Without human rights, people can rule us in harsh conditions, creating an insecure and dangerous world. If we do obey the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it will help us all to live more equally, safely and with freedom. Obviously, human rights are extremely important in order for the human race to live together in peace.